

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

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S E C R E T LONDON 19830

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK, AO

SUBJECT: POLICY COORDINATION ON ANGOLA

REF: A) STATE 302573 (NOTAL); B) STATE 303445 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: BRITISH ARE VERY WILLING TO MAKE DEMARCHES ON ANGOLA REQUESTED BY USG. THEY ARE ALSO DRAFTING DECLARATION FOR RELEASE BY EC CALLING FOR EARLY CEASEFIRE AND WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES. THEY REMAIN CONCERNED THAT IF SOUTH AFRICA IS STILL INVOLVED WHEN OAU MEETS, OAU WILL BE STAMPEDED TOWARDS SUPPORT FOR MPLA. END SUMMARY

1. POLITICAL COUNSELOR CALLED ON DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY DUFF AT FCO TODAY (DECEMBER 30) AND CONVEYED SUBSTANCE REFTELS. DUFF RESPONDED THAT HMG WAS "VERY WILLING" TO DO WHAT USG WAS ASKING REGARDING ANGOLA. HE NOTED THAT FCO HAD IN FACT JUST DRAFTED A DECLARATION ON BEHALF OF EC THAT BRITISH WOULD SUBMIT TO THEIR EC PARTNERS FOR APPROVAL TOMORROW (DECEMBER 31) THAT EMBRACED MANY OF THE
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POINTS MADE BY US. DECLARATION CALLS FOR AN EARLY CEASE-

FIRE, WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES, AND CESSATION OF MILITARY SUPPLIES, AND AFFIRMS THAT IT WOULD BE BEST FOR ALL ANGOLANS IF THEY WERE LEFT TO SORT OUT THEIR OWN SOLUTION ASSISTED BY OAU. DUFF EXPLAINED THAT BRITISH DRAFTING EXERCISE WAS A RESULT OF MARK CHONA'S APPEAL TO CALLAGHAN AND ENNALS, DURING VISIT TO LONDON DECEMBER 18, FOR EC TO ISSUE STATEMENT PRIOR TO OAU SUMMIT.

2. DUFF SAID THAT HMG WOULD MAKE THE DEMARCHES REQUESTED BY USG WHERE AND WHEN APPROPRIATE AND WOULD KEEP USG INFORMED. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WAS SOME DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS OVER TACTICS CONCERNING CESSATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT. USG, HE SAID, WAS PRESSING FOR SIMULTANEOUS CESSATION OF ALL FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT, ON UNDERSTANDABLE PREMISE THAT WITHDRAWAL BY SOUTH AFRICANS ONLY WOULD SOON LEAD TO MPLA VICTORY. HMG, ON OTHER HAND, IS CONCERNED THAT IF SOUTH AFRICA HAS NOT WITHDRAWN OR ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO WITHDRAW BY TIME OAU CONVENES, OAU SUMMIT WILL BE STAMPEDED TOWARDS PRO-MPLA POSITION. IT WAS A FINE POINT, HE OBSERVED, AND A DIFFICULT GAMBLE EITHER WAY.

3. IN THIS CONNECTION HE DISCLOSED THAT BRITISH SUBJECT NAMED SIMPSON, RESIDENT IN NIGERIA, HAD ARRIVED IN SOUTH AFRICA DECEMBER 27 AS PERSONAL EMISSARY OF NIGERIAN PRESIDENT AND WAS CURRENTLY TALKING TO SAG TRYING TO PERSUADE IT TO WITHDRAW UNILATERALLY. NIGERIAN FOREIGN OFFICE IS APPARENTLY UNAWARE OF MISSION. ACCORDING TO DUFF, SIMPSON WAS RELAYING POINT THAT MPLA HAD ASSURED NIGERIANS THAT ONCE SOUTH AFRICANS WERE GONE, MPLA WOULD MOVE TO RID ITSELF OF SOVIETS AND CUBANS. DUFF ACKNOWLEDGED THIS WAS A SELF-SERVING ARGUMENT BY MPLA, BUT WAS PERSONALLY INCLINED TO THINK IT WORTH EXPLORING FURTHER. IN RECENT TALKS WITH SOVIETS AND CUBANS HERE IN LONDON, BRITISH HAVE MADE POINT THAT ONCE SOUTH AFRICANS HAD LEFT, SOVIETS AND CUBANS WOULD FIND THEMSELVES "EXPOSED" IN ANGOLA AND RUN GRAVE RISK OF BECOMING TARGET OF AFRICAN OPPRESSION.

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